(vii) Special workshop were organized on the threat status of vultures and their habitats.

Pollution in rivers due to municipal waste and sewerage

2134. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rivers in the country are being becoming more and more polluted due to discharge of municipal waste and sewerage;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take steps as the Traditional Japanese never discharged waste into the rivers; and

(c) the details of the cost that may be required for such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government is implementing National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for diverting and treating the municipal waste in 157 towns along 31 polluted stretches of major rivers in 18 states. The sewage after treatment is used for irrigation, wherever feasible. A total of 782 projects have been sanctioned under NRCP at a cost of Rs. 3081.89 crore.

National Environment Action Plan

2135. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a new National Environment Action Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the difference between the new and old 'Action Plan';

(d) whether any provision has been made for providing funds to SPCB under new action plan;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) The Expert Committee constituted by the Ministry for formulation of National Environment Action Plan has submitted its report in June 2003 to the Ministry. The Action Plan concentrates on the following areas and specific industries:

1. Effective implementation of regulations on hazardous substances.
2. Implementation of Bio-medical Waste (Management and handling) Rules.
3. Treatment and disposal of Municipal Solid Waste.
4. Reduction of pollution level in critically polluted areas.
5. Abatement of Pollution in
   - small scale industries,
   - distilleries,
   - brick kilns,
   - stone crushers.
6. Utilization of fly ash.
7. Abatement of pollution in metro cities including NCR
8. Rectification of ground water contamination.
9. Enforcement of environmental clearance conditions.

(c) The National Environment Action Plan is a sequel to the State of Environment (SOE) Report released by the Ministry. The SOE envisaged priority areas for the preparation of Environment Action Plan.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Committee is of the opinion that the recent enactment of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess (Amendment) Act, 2003 for increasing the cess rate would certainly go a long way in improving the finances of the State Pollution Control Boards.